For undergraduates in their third and fourth year of a four-year degree program:

National SMART Grant

(National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant)

Students in their junior and senior years of college may be eligible for up to \$4,000 in addition to their ACG grant:

- ✓ U. S. citizen
- ✓ Eligible for Pell Grant
- ✓ Enrolled in four-year degree-granting postsecondary institution
- Majoring in math, engineering, technology, sciences, or critical foreign language
- ✓ Have at least a cumulative 3.0 college GPA

For more information about the ACG or the SMART Grant, including a complete list of SMART Grant-qualifying majors, go to www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.





Federal Academic

Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

AlaskAdvantage Programs

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

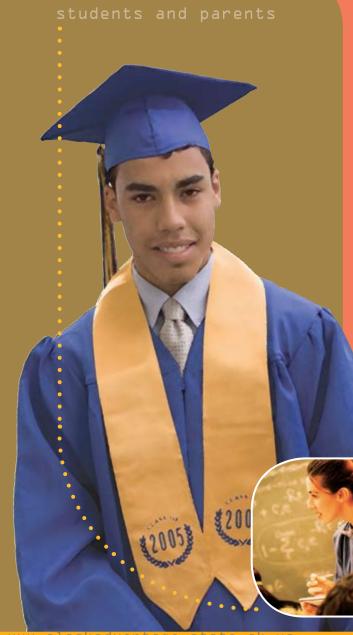
P. O. Box 110505 Juneau, AK 99811-0505

(800) 441-2962 (toll-free) 465-2962 (in Juneau)

(907) 465-3143 (TTY)

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www-alaskadvantage-state-ak-us



www.alaskadvantage.state.ak.us

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

What is the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)?

The ACG is free financial aid to help students pay for qualifying college education.

Beginning in 2006, the federal ACG program provides up to \$750 for the first year of undergraduate study and up to \$1,300 for the second year of undergraduate study for students with qualifying need who completed an academically rigorous high school curriculum.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant award is in addition to the student's Pell Grant award.

Your life is YOUR journey!

Expand your horizons--choose college!

Pop Quiz

Q: How can you get \$20,000 ir free money for college?

A: Take classes in high school to qualify for an ACG. The combined value of the Pell and ACG for qualifying students is almost \$20,000 - and it's money you don't have to pay back!

How do I qualify?

Initial Eligibility for ACG:

- √ U. S. Citizen
- ✓ Eligible for Pell Grant
- Must be a college freshman who completed high school after January 1, 2006, or be a college sophomore who completed high school after January 1, 2005
- ✓ Completed rigorous high school curriculum (see next panel)
- Will be enrolled full-time in the first or second year of a two or four-year degree program
- Must have completed freshman year with 3.0 GPA or higher, if a college sophomore

How to Apply:

Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

You will also need to send your high school transcripts to your college or postsecondary institution so they can determine if you completed a qualifying academically rigorous curriculum.

Be Ready.



What is a rigorous curriculum?

Students who graduated from an Alaska high school may qualify if their high school curriculum included:

- √ Four years of English
- Three years of math, two of which must be Algebra I or higher level courses such as Algebra II, Geometry, or Data Analysis and Statistics
- Three years of science, two of which must be from biology, chemistry, or physics
- √ Three years of social studies
- ✓ One year of a foreign language

-- OR --

Complete at least two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and earn a 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.

For more information about qualifying programs of study in each state, go to www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/acsmart/state-programs06.html.

Pop Quiz

Q: What can you do to greatly increase your odds of completing college and establishing a rewarding career?

A: Complete an academically rigorous high school curriculum